

The Writing Fairy® Tales
The SHORTEST Story in the World
Second Edition



By Dorothea Helms
The Writing Fairy

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By Dorothea Helms

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The Writing Fairy

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The SHORTEST Story in the World

Second Edition

The Writing Fairy® Press

Cover caricature
by Ron Warne

Story illustrations
by Mary Lynne Sheldon

This book is dedicated to all the elephants and mice who have managed to stay out of each other's way 😊, and to those who haven't 😞

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This story was inspired by Gladys Coggsell, a storyteller I met years ago in Broken Bow, Nebraska. She captivated me with tales that transported me to other countries and times, and she reawakened in me as an adult the magic that all children understand when they plead, “Tell me a story.”

PROLOGUE

The second edition of this book took years to write, mainly because I procrastinated, but still ...

This edition explores more fully the psychological and social implications of the plot. I mean, is there really such a thing as an “accident”?

I hope this leaves you questioning the meaning of life. Ask yourself who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist? Was there a hidden motive, or was the tragic result a consequence of absent-mindedness?

If this story leaves you with a compulsion to examine every surface upon which you intend to sit before placing your bottom on it, then my work here is done.

Dorothea Helms

NOTE

This is a novel. Any resemblance to a specific animal, either living or dead, is coincidental. The work is fiction. There are only three facts that stem from reality.

1. Elephants exist
2. Mice exist
3. Stuff happens

INTRODUCTION

What you are about to read may seem beyond the realm of believability, but if approached with an open mind can enlighten, inform and entertain. I hope this little story will inspire others to write fiction and tell their tales of wonder, suspense and horror.

WARNING

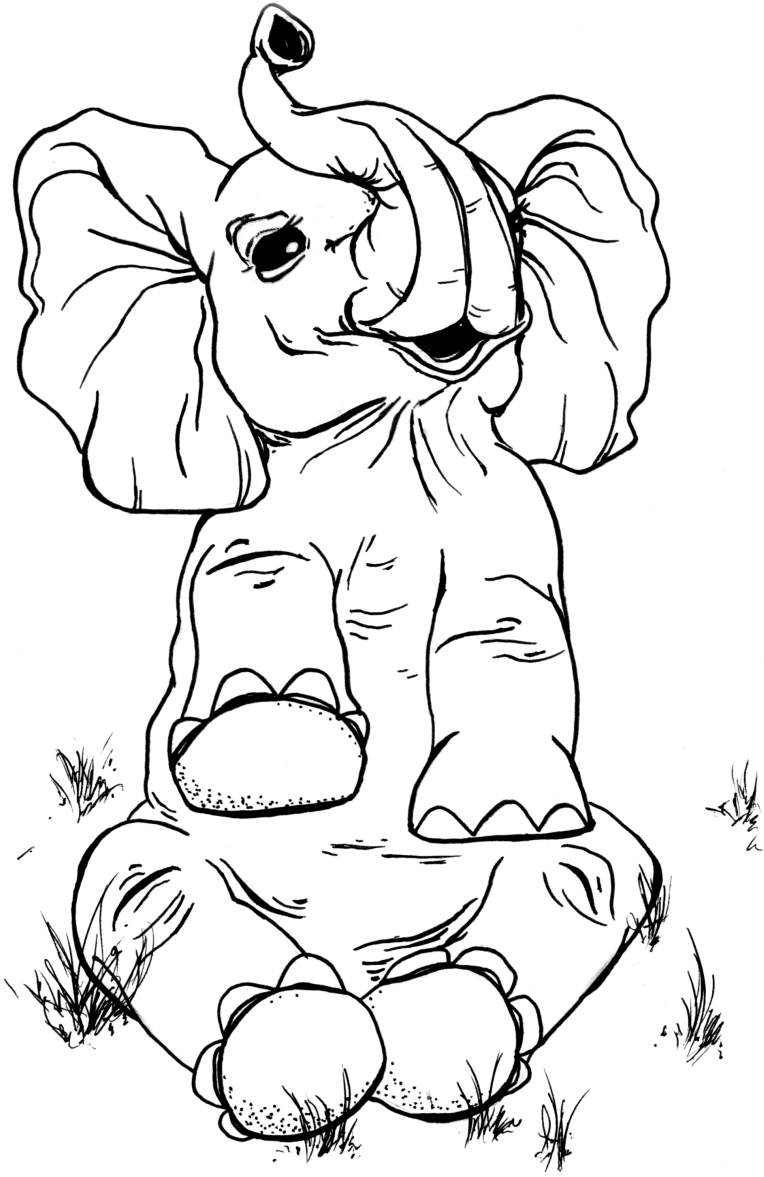
The following contains material that may be disturbing to some people. Reader discretion is advised.

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CHAPTER 1



Elephant sat.

CHAPTER 2



Mouse flat.

THE END

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dorothea Helms, a.k.a. The Writing Fairy, is an internationally published, award-winning writer who detours from her successful freelance career in non-fiction to present this stunning fictional work.

By pitting these two guileless characters against each other in an everyday situation, Helms comments on the squashing of the unsuspecting individual under the bulging flesh of a capitalistic society.

ABOUT THE STORY ILLUSTRATOR

An Art History graduate of the University of Toronto, my daughter, Mary Sheldon, is also an artist whose ability to capture the angst of the protagonist and antagonist in this poignant story adds to the underlying existential dilemma in which the characters find themselves.

ABOUT THE COVER ILLUSTRATOR

Ron Warne writes columns and creates cartoons for humour publications. In his cover caricature of me, he captured my ongoing angst in the poignant pursuit of making people laugh and figuring out what to wear for appearances. To quote my son, Mike, “He got you good.”

RESEARCH NOTES

Elephants are big.

Mice are small.

SOURCE

Duh, everyone knows that!

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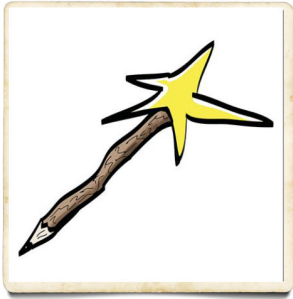
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SPECIAL THANKS

I owe a lot to my husband, Rich Helms. Without his technical genius, this book would still be a file on my computer!

NOTE

No animals were harmed in the making of this book.



Dorothea Helms, a.k.a. The Writing Fairy, pulls out all the stops in this tragic story that involves two characters forever intertwined in a "wrong place at the wrong time" scenario. Using a minimalist style, Helms builds tension, then shakes the reader's world with an unexpected ending.

"The Shortest Story in the World is sure to rock the literary world's perception of charismatic characters, poignant plot and efficient execution. Dorothea should start shopping now for a dress to wear to the Giller Prize awards."

Algoma Betters, *Literary Chapbook Review*

"This book is an astounding example of writing with brevity for effect. I wouldn't be surprised if it is optioned for a blockbuster short film."

Julia Cappone, *Protagonist of Dorothea's Unfinished Novel*

(YES, I made up these quotes. This is fiction, people!)

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